

0415 - Arkansas Forestry Commission

Final Progress Report for the reporting period July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Section I. Agency Update and Assessment

1. Emerging Issues at the Federal (National) or State level affecting the agency.

At the Federal level, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) receives federal grants related to fire protection and forest management. Most federal grants are funneled through the U.S. Forest Service to the AFC. The cost of prevention and suppression of the catastrophic western wildfires last year affected federal funding to the AFC. The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) federal grant that is administered by the AFC was not funded. Last year Arkansas received \$468,991 in FLEP grant funds which were used to provide cost share to private landowners for tree planting, forest stand improvement, wildlife habitat improvement and wildfire rehabilitation.

Tree planting has increased due to several tree planting programs in the Farm Bill. In FY02 13,575 acres and FY03 23,647 acres were planted in trees. The increase in tree planting has increased the workload for AFC personnel to provide technical assistance to landowners.

2. Status of any new initiatives funded from General Revenue or General Improvement funds in the 2003 Legislative Sessions and other changes made through General Legislation.

None

3. Discuss significant factors internal and external to the agency affecting agency performance.

Forest industry in Arkansas is reducing acres of timberland ownership. AFC and south Arkansas forest landowners have in the past benefited for "no-cost to the State" industry forest fire suppression crews. In 2000 there were approximately 70 industry crews available to assist with fire suppression. Average fire size in CY 2000 was 12.8 acres. Today there are fewer than 15 industry crews. In CY 2004 average fire was 14.3 acres. In addition, the AFC froze personnel vacancies in anticipation of state budget shortfalls. There were wildfires during Spring 2003 that burned larger acreage due to shortage of manpower. Average size of wildfires will be larger in the future due to shortage of industry and AFC fire fighters.

4. Provide comments on the usefulness and reliability of performance measures.

The performance measures in the AFC's Strategic Plan identify important services that the AFC provides. The AFC utilizes AASIS or internal AFC data base programs to provide reliability of performance measures.

5. Discuss significant uses of line item flexibility in this report period (agencies operating under Performance-Based Appropriations only).

The line item budget flexibility allows the AFC to better manage budgets for each unit within the AFC and for the AFC as a whole. The AFC was able to immediately realign the AFC budget when the AFC district units were reduced from 11 to 9. In addition, the AFC has the ability to respond immediately to line item changes necessary to perform our duties without exceeding our budget.

Section II. Performance Indicators**Program 1: Administration**

Goal 1: AFC administration will lead, direct, and support employees to accomplish the agency mission.

Objective 1: Efficiently plan and direct agency operations.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>FY04 Actual</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Percent of agency performance targets met.	100%	77%	See comments with each measure.
2	Percent of Administration positions and budgets to total agency positions	3%	5.7% 7.5% budget	The target is unrealistically low. Target for positions should be 6%. Target for budget should be 8%.
3	Percent of agency Information Technology budget to total agency budget	0.5%	3.86%	The AFC received significant unanticipated federal grants for IT.
4	Number of proprietary systems maintained by agency staff or through contractual services.	6	6	
5	Number of prior year audit findings repeated in subsequent audit.	0	0	Audit has not been done for FY ending 6/30/03.

Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:

Program 2: Forest Resource Protection and Management

Goal 1: The AFC will lead, coordinate and provide resources to protect the forest and rural communities, and provide technical information and resources to promote forest health and

Objective 1: Promote sustainability of Arkansas' forest and fire protection for rural communities.

<u>Measure Number</u>	<u>Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>	<u>FY04 Actual</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Average size of wildland fires	14 acres	14.3 acres	
2	Percentage of law enforcement cases closed.	52%	67%	The AFC converted an existing position to law enforcement, which has helped close cases.
3	Number of assist to rural communities and fire departments.	1350	1492	Rural Fire Program has improved data management, which resulted in increased accomplishments.
4	Provide wildland fire suppression training to volunteer fire department and cooperator personnel (number of people trained)	1500	2456	Increase in number of students is due to changes in required training.
5	Acres of private non-industrial land reforested, afforested, or improved by timber stand improvement thru AFC assistance	9750	23,647	Tree planting is largely dependent on federal tree planting programs.
6	Number of FIA plots measured.	945	1019	
7	Rating BMP implementation by forest landowners. Reported on a biannual basis	0	0	Report to be published in FY05 that will provide BMP implementation rating.

Final Progress Report - July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004**0415 - Arkansas Forestry Commission**

8	Number of forestry assists to communities and organizations	160	341	Developing an AFC district urban forestry representative and improving data management has resulted in increased accomplishments.
9	Number of workshops, field days, and presentations to organizations and school groups.	1200	1,167	

Comments on performance matters related to Objective 1:

**Forestry Commission
Final Progress Report**

Section III. Fiscal Summary
for the reporting period July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Program 1: Administration

Commitment Item	Legislative Recommendations Budget Manual - FY04	FY04 Expenditures
Regular Salaries	\$ 762,177.00	\$ 687,706.73
Extra Help	\$ 116,276.00	\$ 11,730.08
Personal Services Matching	\$ 252,673.00	\$ 187,584.70
Overtime	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6.29
Maintenance and Operations		
Operating Expenses	\$ 771,434.00	\$ 768,969.37
Conference Fees & Travel	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 47,168.06
Professional Fees & Services	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 9,525.30
Capital Outlay	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 3,382.68 *
Data Processing	\$ 4,500.00	
Grants		
Uniform Allowance	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 49,961.00
Fire Fighting Equipment	\$ 562,390.00	\$ 337,357.33
Federal Initiative Program	\$ 155,000.00	
Special Maintenance		\$ 388.42
Total	\$ 2,783,350.00	\$ 2,103,779.96

* The total expenditures for the Capital Outlay commitment item are \$340,740.01 which includes the expenditures from the Fire Fighting Equipment commitment item.

Funding Source	Legislative Recommendations Budget Manual - FY04	FY04 Receipts
General Revenue	\$ 971,485.00	\$ 826,766.99
Federal Revenue	\$ 449,451.00	\$ 405,245.00
Special Revenue	\$ 952,000.00	\$ 820,518.19
Trust Revenue		
Other Revenue	\$ 741,437.00	\$ 128,967.92
Total	\$ 3,114,373.00	\$ 2,181,498.10

Section III. Fiscal Summary
Program 2: Forest Resource Protection and Management

Commitment Item	Legislative Recommendations Budget Manual - FY04	FY04 Expenditures
Regular Salaries	\$ 8,264,328.00	\$ 8,249,069.72
Extra Help	\$ 136,189.00	\$ 154,628.12
Personal Services Matching	\$ 2,804,746.00	\$ 2,541,913.46
Overtime	\$ -	\$ 9,323.88
Maintenance and Operations		
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,683,907.00	\$ 2,572,133.46
Conference Fees & Travel	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,813.92
Professional Fees & Services	\$ 1,145,405.00	\$ 689,459.42
Capital Outlay	\$ 2,310,980.00	\$ 698,261.97
Data Processing	\$ -	\$ 1,464.30
Grants	\$ 787,838.00	\$ 1,043,889.31
Pay in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 16,046.00	\$ 16,949.64
Loans	\$ 910,000.00	\$ 779,337.23
Fire Control/Comm	\$ 1,000,000.00	
Mgmt & Operation	\$ 300,000.00	
Other		\$ 2,155.86
Total	\$ 20,366,439.00	\$ 16,762,400.29
Funding Source	Legislative Recommendations Budget Manual - FY04	FY04 Receipts
General Revenue	\$ 4,781,478.00	\$ 4,966,975.01
Federal Revenue	\$ 5,744,771.00	\$ 3,647,205.00
Special Revenue	\$ 4,500,763.00	\$ 5,302,751.86
Trust Revenue	\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 8,246.24
Other Revenue	\$ 5,857,165.00	\$ 3,344,563.86
Total	\$ 22,484,177.00	\$ 17,269,741.97

** Other expenditures include the commitment items for Promotional Items, Debt Service, and Special Maintenance.